



Secretary of State Jason Kander
Election Review
April 7, 2016

Osage County – 2016 Presidential Preference Primary

Background

On March 16, 2016, after the Presidential Preference Primary election, the Secretary of State's Office received complaints regarding the ballot availability in Osage County for the 2016

Presidential Preference Primary. The complaints alleged that insufficient ballots were maintained, on Election Day, at an Osage County polling location.

Results

Under Missouri law, Section 115.115, RSMo., the local election authority designates the polling places for each precinct within which a voter is entitled to vote. Missouri law, Section 115.247, RSMo., further requires each local election authority to provide all ballots for every election within its jurisdiction.

The Secretary of State's Office contacted the Osage County local election authority about the allegation. They confirmed that an insufficient number of ballots were provided at one of their polling places on Election Day. The clerk had taken steps to deliver additional ballots to polling places through the day. Still, one polling place ran out of ballots and the clerk's office was notified of this shortly after 6 p.m.

With the polls closing at 7 p.m., they were unable to deliver the ballots to the polling place in sufficient time.

Steps have been taken by the clerk to ensure sufficient ballots are available for all future elections. These steps include:

- Reassessing the number of ballots ordered and provided to each polling place
- Instituting a call-in plan with each polling place on Election Day to assess the level of ballots throughout the day
- Devising a method to distribute ballots as necessary through the day to those polling places that anticipate a shortage of ballots on Election Day